



# EXPLORING THE CAUSES OF LACK OF EDUCATION IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** There are approximately 70 million young children worldwide who are deprived of the opportunity to fulfill their potential due to a lack of access to basic education. These children are denied the essential resources necessary for proper learning and development in a secure environment, including the presence of teachers and peers for effective communication. Instead, they are often forced into early labor to support their families. Factors such as poverty, conflict and displacement, gender inequality, and insufficient global support contribute to the limited access to education, significantly impacting the prospects of many individuals. This research article aims to explore the underlying causes of the lack of education among children, the profound consequences it has on their future and proposes ways in which individuals worldwide can actively contribute to improving their circumstances.

**KEYWORDS:** Lack of Education, Children, Potential, Basic Education, Stimulation, Safe Environment, Poverty, Conflict, Displacement, Gender Inequality, Global Support, Future, Improvement, Access To Education.

## INTRODUCTION

Having a solid education and a nurturing upbringing is widely recognized as crucial factors in becoming successful, dependable, and respected individuals (OECD, 2018). Educational systems play a vital role in providing not only knowledge but also essential life skills. They enable individuals to explore diverse interests, expand their perspectives on various subjects, and develop a better understanding of their society and surroundings. Furthermore, schools equip students with valuable social and interpersonal skills, preparing them for both collaborative and independent work (Prajapati et al., 2017).

Numerous organizations are actively working towards raising awareness, collecting funds, and providing support to children who lack access to education. Despite the commendable efforts of these foundations to overcome the numerous barriers that hinder children from receiving a proper education, the issue of global educational inequality remains significant (UNICEF, 2023). This research paper aims to delve into the consequences of the lack of education and explore potential solutions to address this pressing issue.

A robust education serves as a crucial foundation for success in life. Beyond imparting knowledge and academic subjects, schools also nurture students' communication and social skills, shaping their future prospects. The absence of education in a child's life can have far-reaching negative impacts on their potential and opportunities. It is imperative that this issue receives increased attention and concerted efforts to find effective solutions (OECD, 2019).

The sources used in this paper provide support for various findings and ideas related to the key factors contributing to the educational challenges faced by children. Together, these sources shed light on the global factors that impede children's basic right to education. While these challenges may appear daunting and complex, it is important to mobilize support from individuals and organizations worldwide to bring attention to the severity of this issue and drive positive changes.

## Discussion

### 1. Poverty

One of the primary barriers to accessing education is poverty. Families with low incomes often struggle to meet basic needs such as food and shelter, leaving little money available for educational expenses. According to the United Nations (2022), approximately 258 million children and adolescents globally are currently out of school, with poverty being a leading cause of this issue. In many developing countries, the cost of education is beyond the means of many individuals. Humanium's Right to Education (n.d.) highlights that children from impoverished families are more likely to engage in work to support their families, leaving limited time for schooling. Some students may even drop out of school entirely to contribute to their family's income. Additionally, in countries where education is not free, families are burdened with additional costs such as uniforms, books, and general supplies, further straining their financial resources. Furthermore, some developing nations lack the necessary resources to build sufficient schools and adequately compensate teachers, making it difficult to provide education to all children across the country.

Research conducted by Misty Lacour and Laura D. Tislington (2011) reveals

that students from lower-income areas generally perform poorly on various academic assessments. Families living below the poverty line often reside in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods with higher crime rates and limited access to quality educational systems. These circumstances restrict children's access to intellectual development opportunities, resulting in significant academic disparities compared to their peers who have access to basic education. The New York Academy of Sciences (2008) article "The Effect of Poverty on Child Development and Educational Outcomes" supports this notion, stating that children from financially struggling families are more likely to drop out of school and experience lower academic performance in the long run. Education is a critical component of leading a successful life, and the Global Fund for Children emphasizes that parents in low-income families, such as those in Zimbabwe, may perceive education as an impediment to their children's ability to earn money. Poverty presents significant challenges, preventing many children worldwide from receiving a quality education due to their families' inability to bear the additional financial burden. In such circumstances, the primary focus of guardians is often on securing basic needs like food and shelter, with education considered a secondary priority (Ferguson et al., 2007). Consequently, children's ability to develop the necessary skills for future accomplishments is hindered.

### 2. Conflict & Displacement

Another significant factor that hinders access to education for millions of children is the prevalence of conflict and displacement in many countries (UNICEF, 2017). Conflict and displacement refer to situations where individuals are forced to leave their homes due to violence or other dangerous circumstances. According to the United Nations, in countries affected by conflict, schools are often destroyed, teachers may be targeted or killed, and children are compelled to flee their homes. As a result, children residing in temporary shelters or displaced communities face significant obstacles in accessing education, including the absence of schools, teachers, and educational resources. Even when schools are available, the safety of children is frequently compromised due to ongoing conflict. In some instances, such as the Taliban attacks in the early 2000s, schools have been deliberately targeted for violent attacks. The United Nations (2023) reports that thousands of educational facilities have been destroyed in the ongoing war with Russia, illustrating the devastating impact of armed conflict on educational infrastructure. The destruction of schools and the threat of violence naturally generate fear and apprehension among parents, discouraging them from sending their children to school. These communities experience profound disruption, and it can take a considerable amount of time to restore educational systems to their pre-conflict state. Moreover, apart from the disruption caused by conflict and displacement, the traumatic experiences endured by children in these circumstances can significantly affect their attitudes and enthusiasm toward formal education. Consequently, they may develop resistance and diminished interest in attending school, as the previously exciting and safe learning environment has become associated with danger and risk.

### 3. Gender Inequality

Gender inequality is another factor that prevents millions of girls from accessing education (UNICEF, 2017). Children from certain ethnic or religious backgrounds may be denied access to education. More than half of the millions of children out of school are girls. In some countries, and/or cultures girls are

involved in early marriage, pregnancy, or family responsibilities, giving them less time to live on their own to start schooling. Girls are often expected to stay home and be part of household chores such as cooking, cleaning, caring for those at home, taking up most of their time, and leaving almost nothing for school. Humanium Rights to Education states that in countries like Afghanistan, there are little to no efforts made to reduce this gender gap. For example, Malala Yousafzai, a girl who loved school, was brutally injured at a very young age and denied the right to go to school. According to the Malala Fund story (2023), she currently strives to be able to give young girls around the world the support that she never received. "Every day I fight to ensure all girls receive 12 years of free, safe, quality education. I travel to many countries to meet girls fighting poverty, wars, child marriage, and gender discrimination to go to school" says Yousafzai. In more developed countries like the United States, they have rules and legislation that somewhat helps prevent these causes. The Every Student Succeeds Act, passed by the US Department of Education in 2015 ensures that every student has access to education of high standards that will prepare them to succeed. Societal gender roles force people into living a certain lifestyle, not giving them the freedom to explore what they want to do.

#### 4. Lack of Support

Finally, the lack of support from individuals around the world hinders access to education for millions of children. Despite education being recognized as a fundamental human right, many countries do not prioritize it as a key area of investment. In developing countries, the value of foundational education may be diminished in the eyes of parents who themselves did not receive a strong education (van Voorhis et al., 2013). However, while there are numerous organizations and initiatives dedicated to addressing the lack of education, many people refrain from engaging with these organizations due to a lack of awareness and trust (Zheng et al., 2023). Consequently, these organizations would greatly benefit from increased attention and support. They make efforts to raise awareness through fundraising activities, social media outreach, and promotional campaigns, but they heavily rely on individuals from higher-income societies to provide not only supplies and donations but also to help raise awareness about their mission. Affluent individuals can support these organizations by offering financial assistance, donating school supplies, and contributing their time to help build effective educational programs. While people generally have a surface-level understanding of human rights issues, not everyone comprehends the severity and far-reaching impact they can have on an individual's life. Therefore, educational rights organizations should take the initiative to provide more detailed information on how specific contributions will be utilized and the direct benefits they will bring (OECD, 2012, p.37-38). Establishing a reliable and transparent relationship between sponsors and organizations is crucial. This communication helps individuals gain a deeper understanding of the tangible difference they can make in someone else's journey toward success. People are more likely to be motivated to contribute when they can witness the direct impact of their support on the lives of those in need (OECD, 2012).

#### Conclusion & Recommendations

To address the discussed barriers and increase access to basic education for more children, it is crucial to allocate greater funding to education programs, promote gender equality, combat discrimination, and foster the development of robust education systems in developing countries. A study revealed that societies with higher rates of educational attainment experience lower crime rates, improved overall health outcomes, and increased community engagement. Education plays a pivotal role in shaping individuals into responsible citizens, facilitating better employment opportunities, and instilling essential moral values. Furthermore, lack of access to education is widely recognized as a significant contributor to the cycle of poverty, while education itself serves as a means to break free from this cycle. By providing individuals with access to education, we empower them to acquire valuable knowledge and skills, fostering personal growth and self-reliance. In turn, this enables us to collectively shape a better society by promoting a deeper understanding of our world and cultivating respect for one another.

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